

Walter Andersen: You asked me about the weather at Attu because many of the shots were just us running around in our shorts. It was very mild, really. It, maybe, got down in the 20s, but it snowed a lot.



Photo 6: Left to Right: Tex, "Heavy" Cornwell Junior and Maurice "Moe" Huntley

Janis Kozlowski: Did it really?

Walter Andersen: Yes, and it rained, we got freezing rain. A lot of fog, oh, a lot of fog.

Janis Kozlowski: I've heard that story before.

Walter Andersen: Yes. And then ... actually, you know, in the spring time there would be flowers there.

Janis Kozlowski: You mean a lot of flowers?

Walter Andersen: Yes, in the fields there would be flowers growing there, if I recall right.

Janis Kozlowski: So, do you remember it as being a pretty place or?

Walter Andersen: It was pretty, there were no trees. There was nothing growing above ground, nothing growing up into the air. It was all tundra.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you get out and walk around much around the island?

Walter Andersen: Oh, sure.

Janis Kozlowski: What did you think of it?

Walter Andersen: It was ... when you're a kid it was like a big adventure, like a big camping trip.

Janis Kozlowski: Just some new place to check out.

Walter Andersen: Yes, it was.

Cape Wrangell was probably the most interesting. We did some fishing there.

We had a big garbage pit outside our unit there. We had a family of fox that lived with us there in that little area. They'd eat ... go into that garbage pit and eat and they got friendly. They'd come into the Quonset hut and you had to be careful. If you frightened them they'd start to urinate and that smelled up the whole place.

Janis Kozlowski: Yes.

Walter Andersen: That one family there we had one pure white fox, it must have been an albino and the rest were what they call blue fox.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, so that was part of your recreation there. Those were like your pets?

Walter Andersen: Yes. [laughing] They'd come up and almost eat out of your hand really. They were just very tame.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you see much other wildlife on the island? Either at Wrangell or at Attu?

Walter Andersen: No, we saw ... there were ptarmigan, that's a bird, you know, it ... during the summer it's brown and when there's snow on the ground they turn white.

Janis Kozlowski: Uh-hnn.

Walter Andersen: Then there was the fox.

Janis Kozlowski: Now, did you say you did some fishing when you were in Alaska?

Walter Andersen: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: How did you do that, was it in the streams or out in the ocean?

Walter Andersen: We went out in the bay there. In fact, there was one picture showing a couple – I think it was Bob Wyman and maybe myself, and there was an officer – just showing the small boat that we were in.

Janis Kozlowski: Were those Navy provided boats?

Walter Andersen: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: What kind of catch did you get there? What'd you catch?

Walter Andersen: You know, I don't really recall. We ate it though.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you fish because ... just for something fun to do or....

Walter Andersen: Yes. Just for some sport.



Photo 7: Casco Cove, 1945.

Janis Kozlowski: Was your food pretty good?

Walter Andersen: Oh, yes. Really good.

Janis Kozlowski: So you weren't fishing for that purpose, you were fed pretty well?

Walter Andersen: No. Just sport, yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Ok. How about hunting, did you do any hunting?

Walter Andersen: We did some ... they had some geese up there, but we never shot the geese. I don't know ... we didn't have any shotguns. We just had rifles.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, ok.